

Podcast Script: USFS "Alaska Forest Reflections"

#476087-12

Date: 22 June 2011

MUSIC UP:

NARRATOR: *"FOREST REFLECTIONS, A SERIES OF STORIES BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED, WORKED AND PLAYED IN ALASKA'S NATIONAL FORESTS, SHARING THEIR MEMORIES OF FAVORITE FOREST PLACES FOR THIS 2011 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS."*

MUSIC FADE:

SUE: Hi, this is Sue Entsminger, with my husband Frank, we've been married now 36 -37 years, and one of my favorite trips was our first trip down to the Prince William Sound area where Frank and I went goat hunting.

One of the things I remember distinctly about the trip was we hiked in about five miles into a glacier valley and it got quite cold. It was in November, we were honeymooners then, and we had sleeping bags that didn't go together and I remember it getting down to four degrees or down there and the sunny beautiful in the daytime. And makes if for a beautiful time to see that area. And we were having to snuggle pretty close in the sleeping bag when it was four degrees at night!

FRANK: Yeah, my name's Frank Entsminger, just a really brief background, actually next spring, next June I will have lived in Alaska for 50 years. I came originally from Montana after high school graduation. And yes, I remember that trip to Prince William Sound and the Cordova area very distinctly. It was our first trip down there. It turned out to be very beautiful weather, but it was quite chilly and we met some really nice folks in the Cordova area. They kind of pointed us in the right direction to go on this particular hunting trip, and we saw lots of mountain goats, brown bears, bald eagles...the coast in general full of wildlife, but particularly Prince William Sound is just very rich in wildlife and it was a super nice trip. We actually got a brown bear and a nice ten-inch billy goat on that trip, and made some really nice friends in Cordova area.

SUE: Yes, I remember it well. Just enjoying the beauty of...you know it had snowed, actually quite a bit, while we were there, and yet we still were able to enjoy the weather because after the snow it cleared off and you could just see the beauty of the mountains and all the landscape and tracks of animals that were out and about. Seeing the bald eagles and seeing a lot of...still some fish left in the streams that the bears would get after.

FRANK: There's a very high percentage of the residents of Prince William Sound that are commercial fishermen, and of course we met quite a few of them, and over the years they took us out of their fishing boats. And in time, actually, Sue got the fishing bug and bought her own fishing boat and participated in that lifestyle. But getting out on the water and seeing the wildlife and the waves and everything that comes with it and it's really a unique experience. I know people that come in, up the Inside Passage, and go on some of the tour ships and whatnot. They're pretty much in awe when they see all that is going on in that particular environment.

SUE: Yes, Frank spurs my memories of commercial fishing there in the sound, also. I ended up working with a group of people at the herring fishery in the spring. And, actually, in the spring, it's one of the most beautiful times, actually, because sometimes the weather is a little more moderate, and we had some great times on the water. We put out, they were called "pounds," an enclosure underwater where we put some kelp in the water, to entice the herring to spawn on our kelp, which we sold later and we had some really good times, watching a bald eagle fly and catch herring. And it's pretty cool, to (see) them soar down in there and grab a fish and come back up. I remember one time we saw an eagle flying and it must have missed, and got wet. And it was flying and flopping on the water trying to get to land, and it still had a couple hundred yards to go.

And some of the neat things we did, each time we'd camp out on our boats. Of course we were out on the water and we'd be in coves and we were near some of the places where the ice from the glacier was floating around and we'd pick up ice for our drinks, and it made you feel like you were drinking a drink from many years ago because the ice is so old.

Alaska is full of so many different places that you can go visit and Southeast Alaska is more of a wet climate compared to the Interior. And it's just one of the neatest places to go see because of the beauty of the area with moss and all the things on the trees. It was always fun for us to go there and see the difference in the parts of Alaska that we live.

MUSIC UP:

NARRATOR: *"FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR NATIONAL FORESTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS, PLEASE VISIT THE LINKS PROVIDED AT WWW.MYALASKAFOREST.COM.*

ALASKA FOREST REFLECTIONS IS PRODUCED FOR THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, ALASKA REGION, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE.

IN JUNEAU, I'M BOB BELONGIE FOR THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE.

MUSIC OUT.